to protect the interests of the workers. However, review and updation of these laws is a continuous process. Amendments in the Trade Unions Act, 1926 and the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 have been carried out recently.

Besides this, a scheme for counselling, re-training and re-deployment of rationalized workers of Central Public Sector Undertakings has also been introduced from 2001-2002 with a thrust on self-employment of the rationalized employees.

ESI benefits to workers

2427. SHRIMATI S.C. INDIRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has held that a worker shall be entitled to ESI benefits from the date of employment and not from the date of contribution/registration for such facility;

(b) if so, whether rules are being amended to provide for such a facility;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The provisions of ESI Act and the Rules & Regulations made thereunder already provide that employees in respect of whom contributions are or were payable under the Act are entitled to benefits subject to fulfilling the qualifying conditions.

Employment growth in organised industry

2428. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth of employment in organised industry and services both in the public and the private sector has lagged far behind the overall growth of the economy;